



CYNTHIA J. CAMPBELL
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

May 1, 2018

Missouri Public Service Commission
200 Madison Street
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

RE: Empire District Electric Company/ Algonquin Power & Utilities

Dear Chairman Hall and Commissioners Kenney, Silvey, Coleman, and Rupp:

I am an attorney in Joplin and I am a consultant for a group of citizens who are deeply concerned about the ill-conceived plans that Liberty-Empire has for the closure of the newly overhauled, EPA-compliant Asbury coal-fired power plant, and replacing it with inefficient, expensive and inadequate 'green' power in the form of wind farms.

The more that this has been researched and studied, the more it has become apparent that the residential and business consumers in Southwest Missouri are being set up to foot the bill for not only the \$130 million dollar Bag House upgrade, but also for the demolition of the now EPA-compliant Asbury plant, and also for the funding the massive wind farms needed to generate 800 megawatts of power to replace it. Once it becomes apparent that the wind farms are not practical in this part of the country, the consumers will be hit by a fourth wave . . . having to purchase electrical power from third-party sources to take up the slack from the failure of the wind farms and the proposed demolition of the now perfectly efficient and productive Asbury clean coal-fired power plant.

The mere fact that Liberty (Empire)/Algonquin is desperately trying to 'fast track' this with the PSC and the Missouri Office of the Public Counsel only serves to validate our fears and concerns that Missouri's electric consumers are being fed a 'bill of goods' that will only result in much higher power costs and fees.

I have included brochures for each member of the Commission in the hopes that our research, facts and figures will help shed light on this horrible proposal.

Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia Campbell".

-Cynthia Campbell

Customer Beware!

In January of 2017, Empire District Electric Co. was acquired by Canadian owned Algonquin Power & Utilities.

Shortly after, plans to close the coal burning Asbury powerplant were announced, with an estimated closure date of 2022. Recently these plans moved forward in an effort to close the coal fired plant by April 2019, in favor of a wind farm.

Recent upgrades and overhauls to the plant have given the generator an expected 15-20 more years of life, not to mention the \$130Million customer funded "BagHouse" that was completed 4 years ago in forced compliance to new EPA regulations, which is still being paid for.

So, why is a NEW wind turbine plant, suddenly the best option, even if it means closing down an existing plant that just received a massive customer funded overhaul?

Ask Yourself This

Why is Liberty Utilities/Empire District cutting \$100Million from its 2018 budget?

Could it be so that they don't have to ask for a rate increase until 2019/2020? As to have more leverage with the Public Service Commission, for ramming the proposed wind farm and all of its massive costs (including the millions that have potentially wasted at the Asbury Power Plant, should this go through) down the throats of the customers?

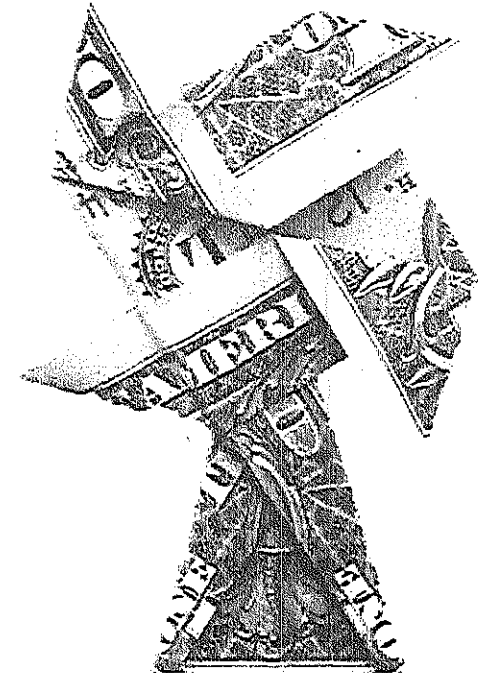
"Going Green" merely means spending more "green", in the form of taxpayer and customer money.

Wind Farm?

or

Money Pit?

Liberty Util. & You



Their Problem

Algonquin Power has a problem, how to convince the Public Service Commission to allow them to continue billing the customers for the \$130M Bag House upgrade, after the plant has been shut down.

Could the answer lie in that the Asbury Plant won't be demolished or even decommissioned after the supposed "shut down" date? Is that how you get the Public Service Commission to okay the plan?

By having the Asbury plant on "available" status, can Algonquin Power still charge the customers for the Bag House upgrade, even if the coal plant is only used one or two times per year?

Their Solution?

So, how does Algonquin/Liberty Utilities plan on selling this to the Public Service Commission? Could the way to accomplish this be to:

1. Have 200 MegaWatts of wind power ready by 2019, so that they can get ahold of the taxpayer funded government subsidies, and at the same time shut down an existing plant, that just received a customer funded 20 year overhaul?
2. Not tear down or decommission the Asbury Plant, leaving it on "available" status, so the customers still have to pay for the Bag House?
3. Leave the Asbury Plant on "available" until all 800 MegaWatts of wind power are available, by which point most of, if not all of the barely used Bag House will have been paid for by Empire/Liberty customers?

Looking Forward

More and more coal plants are shut down every year. They supply cheap, sustainable electricity for millions of customers around the country.

"Green" energy has been proven inefficient and cost ineffective without government subsidies, some days the wind doesn't blow, others, the sun doesn't shine. Coal and Natural Gas have withstood the test of time, are abundant resources, and most importantly, existing plants don't cost the taxpayer more money.

Also keep in mind, that as coal plants are shut down, natural gas prices rise. Empire/Liberty currently runs 3 gas powered plants in Riverton, LaRussel, and one on the KS/MO State line.

Do you really think that Empire/Liberty won't ask for another customer rate increase after the price of gas skyrockets?

Customer Beware.